

REMARKS

Initially, in the Office Action dated December 18, 2003, the Examiner alleges that restriction under 35 USC §121 is required and requests Applicants to elect one of the alleged inventions.

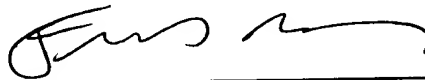
By the present response, Applicant have canceled original claims 1-8 and submitted new claims 9-19 for consideration by the Examiner. Claims 9-19 remain pending in the present application.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner alleges that restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121 is required of original claims 1-8. Applicants have canceled original claims 1-8, thereby rendering this restriction requirement moot. Applicants submit that new claims 9-19 are not subject to the same restriction.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing attorney docket no. 500.37414X00).

Respectfully submitted,
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